



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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January 13, 2020

Mike Ribordy
Chief, Emergency Response Section 2
Emergency Response Branch 2
U.S. EPA, Region 5
77 West Jackson Boulevard, SE-5J
Chicago, IL 60604

Re: LPC# 0730655005 – Henry County
Dierzen Kewanee
SF/Tech

Dear Mr. Ribordy:

I am requesting the Region 5 Offices of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) assign an On-Scene Coordinator to consider a possible time-critical removal action at the Dierzen Kewanee site in Kewanee, Henry County, Illinois.

The Dierzen Kewanee site is in the west-central portion of Kewanee at 101 Franklin Street (see attached maps). The 35-acre property is bounded on the south by railroad tracks owned by BNSF Railway Company, and on the west by North Washington Street. The eastern and northern boundaries of the site are formed by several side streets with Franklin and Rice streets forming the primary boundaries on the east and Fourth Street forming the site's northernmost boundary. An estimated 35 residential properties adjoin the site on its north, west, and eastern sides. The facility is not secure although a cyclone fence surrounds most of the site. There has been evidence of trespassing occurring at the facility. The most recent owner of the parcel (P.I.N. 2032276002) is [REDACTED] of Venedy, Illinois. The property has changed hands numerous times over the last several years with owner interest seemingly revolving around salvage opportunities at the facility.

The Kewanee Boiler Company began producing commercial steel boilers at the site prior to 1900. As of 1910, the facility consisted of several separate buildings with three of the main structures covering approximately 100,000ft² and housing a grey iron foundry, boiler shop and welding and painting operations. Operations expanded and as of the 1950s, the facility had its own power plant, water tower, and on-site laboratory. During the years of operation, hazardous waste reports sent to Illinois EPA indicated the generation of waste oils, mineral spirits, waste paint containing lead and chromate as well as separate waste streams with cyanide and mercury. Steel boilers were manufactured on-site until the facility's close in 2001. In 2003, the facility was purchased by Dierzen Heavy Industries. Dierzen began manufacturing dump truck beds at the facility in 2004. During Dierzen's period of operation, multiple complaints about the site were reported to Illinois EPA including concerns regarding the facility's paint exhaust and sand blast practices, where blast media was left on the ground outside. Site inspections

conducted by Illinois EPA identified sandblast media scattered on the ground outside of the buildings along with improper storage and open dumping of wastes. Transformer fluid and releases of used oil were observed in multiple areas on the property. Inspections conducted in 2017 following the close of Dierzen's operations on site identified four containers of oil that had been drained from the on-site transformers. Soil staining around the areas where the transformers had once stood was also identified. Analytical results for polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) on samples collected from the oil removed from the transformers ranged from 13 to 27 parts per million (ppm). Soil samples collected from stained areas beneath the transformers ranged from non-detect to 12 ppm of PCBs.

Conditions of the facility deteriorated further following property transfers and salvage operations. Illinois EPA staff conducted additional site inspections in 2019 and identified asbestos containing material inside one of the remaining buildings on-site as well as outside of the building. Illinois EPA Bureau of Air staff returned to the site in November of 2019 to collect samples of material believed to contain asbestos. Friable asbestos was positively identified in several large bags stored outside of one of the buildings. The bags were torn open and exposed to outdoor elements. In addition, friable asbestos was identified within and underneath one of the buildings on-site. The material placed beneath the building was uncontained and exposed to wind and weather. Several open pits, building rubble, and a large-diameter water supply well (with no surface seal) represent potential physical and environmental hazards on the site. Several photographs taken on-site in November of 2019 are included as attachments for your consideration.

As mentioned earlier, access to the property is unrestricted and remains to be a problem as trespassers enter the facility. Friable asbestos exposed to weather are a potential risk to the surrounding area which is mostly residential. Likewise, as the buildings remaining on-site continue to deteriorate, the risks posed to nearby populations will only increase. The current property owners have been unresponsive to Illinois EPA's requests to address these issues. Since the State of Illinois does not have sufficient funds to address concerns at this site, Illinois EPA would like U.S. EPA to consider a time-critical removal action at the Dierzen Kewanee site.

Please have your On-Scene Coordinator contact me at 217-524-6365 or Jeff Port at 309-671-3069. At that time, Illinois EPA can provide additional information about site. Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to hearing from U.S. EPA about this project and on future removal activities.

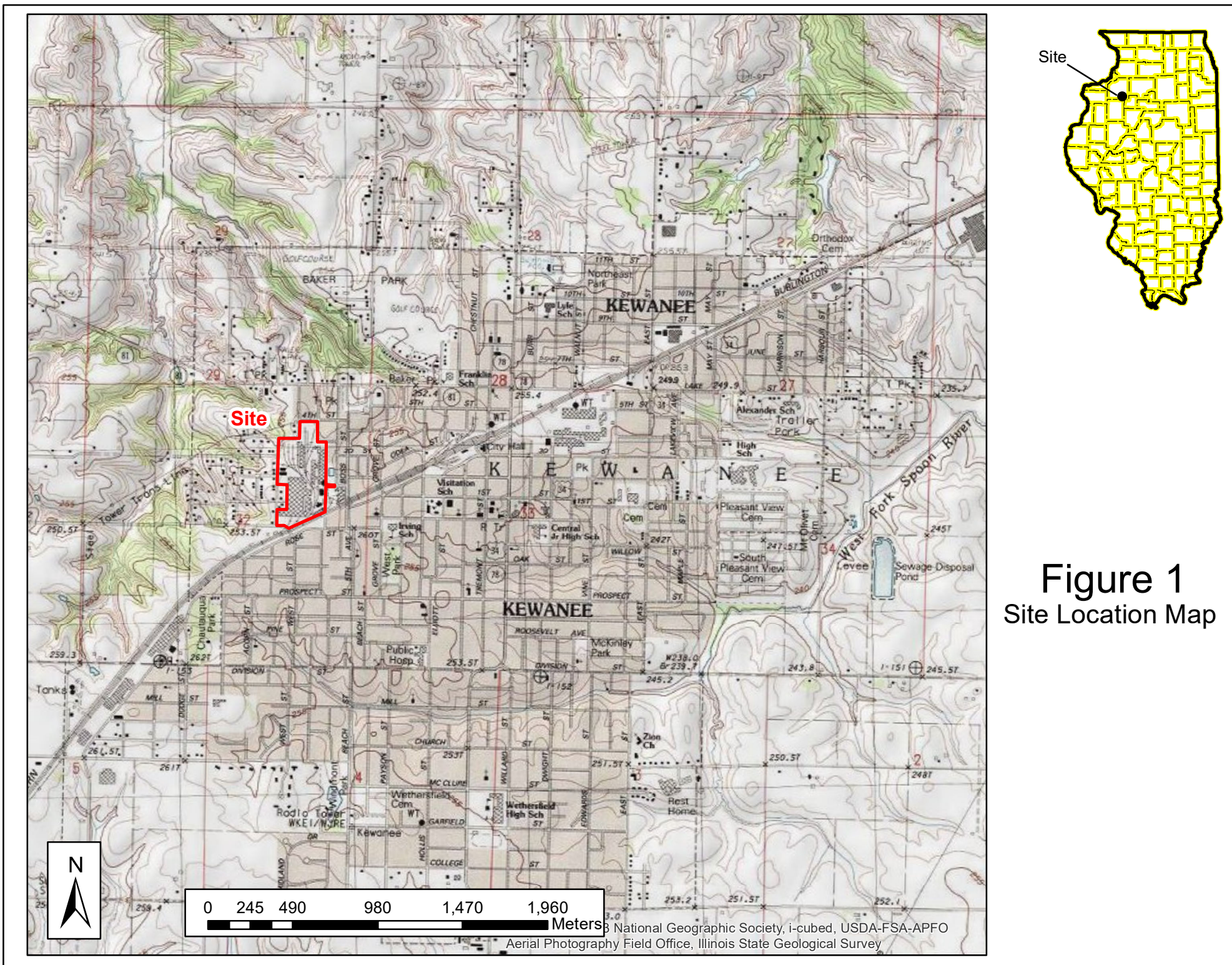
Sincerely,



Jerry Willman
Office of Site Evaluation
Division of Remediation Management
Bureau of Land

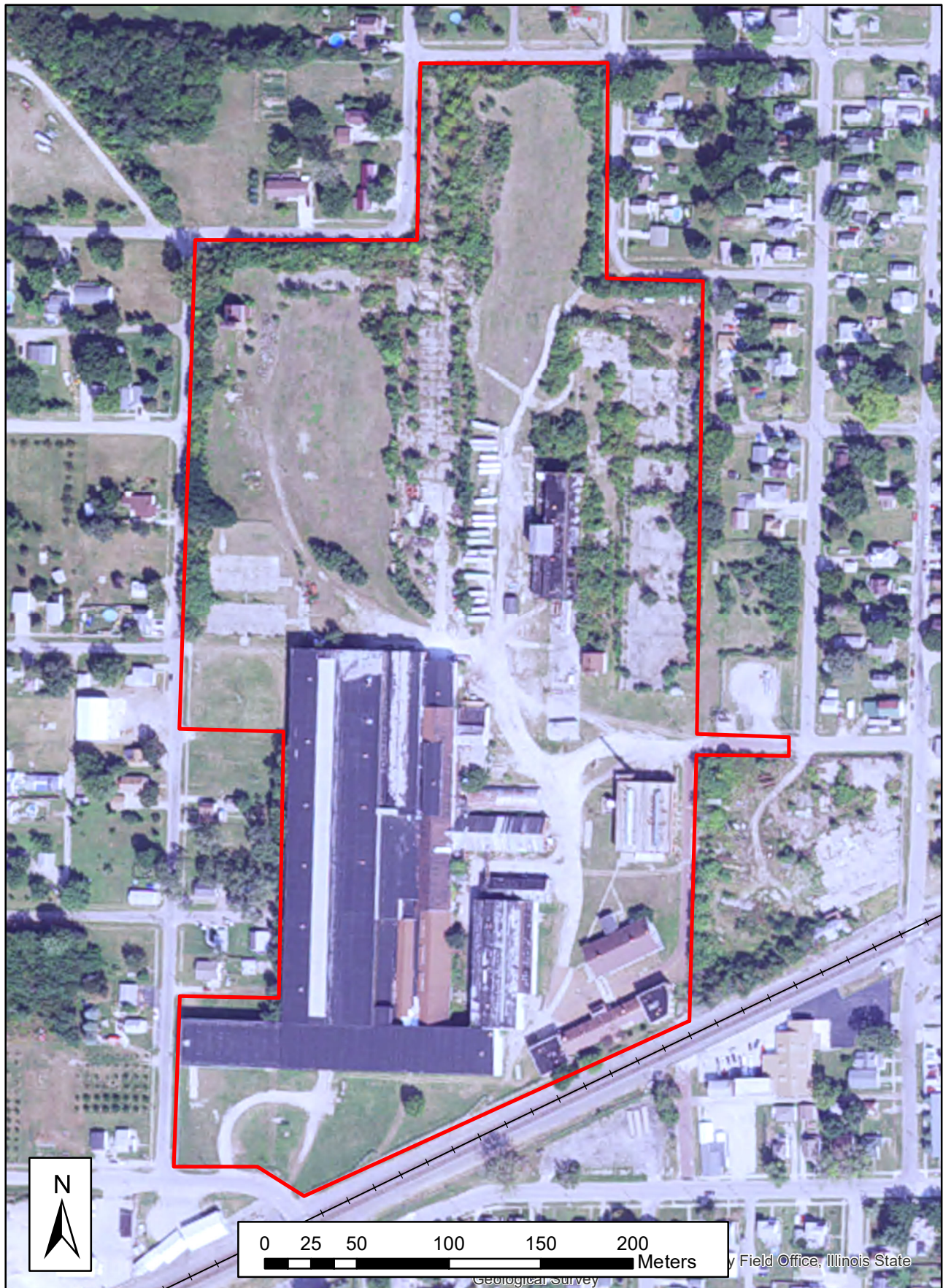
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Aerial Photography Field Office, Illinois State Geological Survey

Figure 2
Dierzen Kewanee Site





Remaining Buildings On-Site



Buildings in Distance with Debris



Carboys Partially Filled with Oil



Deteriorated Bags of Asbestos



Asbestos under Building



Open Well